

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Previously Presented) A printer to perform a printing operation by driving hardware provided thereto according to a printing command received from a user, comprising:

a firmware unit to store function information of a plurality of printer models, supported by a common firmware, of the printer, and control the printer to selectively perform the function of one of the plurality of printer models which corresponds to a model index designated by a manufacturer as the printer is initialized, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of printer models.

2. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 1, wherein the firmware unit comprises:

a storage unit to store the function information of the plurality of printer models therein;

a model index processing unit to store a model index designation command received from outside the firmware unit, extract from the storage unit the function information which corresponds to the model index designated by the model index designation command upon the initialization of the printer, and output the extracted function information; and

a firmware driving unit to control the hardware to receive the function information and perform a corresponding function.

3. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 2, wherein the firmware unit further comprises:

a data receiving unit to receive data from outside the firmware unit, and transmit the model index designation command to the model index processing unit in response to the model index designation command being in the received data;

a data processing unit to receive the data excluding the model index designation command from the data receiving unit, and convert the data into corresponding printer language;

and

a data printing unit to control the hardware to output the converted data onto a printing medium.

4. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 3, further comprising a developing unit and a fusing unit to output the converted data onto the printing medium, wherein the developing unit and the fusing unit are controlled by the data printing unit.

5. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 2, wherein the model index designation command is transmitted along with initialization files through a printer interface during the manufacturing of the printer, so that the model index designation command is processed upon the initialization of the printer.

6. (Previously Presented) The printer of claim 2, wherein the model index designation command is transmitted in a separate command file that is transmitted through a printer interface to be processed by the firmware unit.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of supporting a plurality of models of a printer by a common firmware, the method comprising:

inputting a model index designation command and storing the command in a file of a printer in which the common firmware is installed, during a manufacturing operation;

confirming a model index designation command which designates a model index corresponding to one of the plurality of printer models on performing an initialization of the printer;

extracting function information corresponding to the one of the plurality of printer models which is designated by the model index designation command;

confirming a function of the designated model using the function information; and
performing the function, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of printer models.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the file is an initialization file of the printer.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the file is a separate file stored in the printer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the function of a basic model that is previously set is performed in response to there being no function information corresponding to the designated model index.

11. (Previously Presented) A firmware unit of a printer to control the printer, wherein the firmware unit stores function information of a plurality of printer models, supported by a common firmware, of the printer, and controls the printer according to the function information corresponding to the printer set at a time of manufacture, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of printer models.

12. (Previously Presented) A firmware unit to control a printer, wherein the firmware unit stores function information of a plurality of models of the printer, and controls the printer according to the function information corresponding to the printer, with a storage unit to store the function information of the plurality of models, supported by a common firmware, of the printer,

further comprising a model index processing unit to store a model index designation command received from outside the firmware unit by a manufacturer, extract the function information corresponding to a model index designated by the model index designation command, and output the extracted information, and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality of printer models.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The firmware unit of claim 12, further comprising a data receiving unit to receive data from outside the firmware unit, and transmit the model index designation command to the model index processing unit in response to the model index designation command being in the received data.

15. (Original) The firmware unit of claim 14, further comprising a data processing unit to receive the data excluding the model index designation command from the data receiving unit

and convert the data into corresponding printer language.

16. (Previously Presented) The firmware unit of claim 15, further comprising a data printing unit to control hardware of the printer to output the converted data onto a printing medium.

17. (Previously Presented) The firmware unit of claim 11, further comprising a firmware driving unit to control hardware of the printer to receive the function information and perform a corresponding function.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a printer, the method comprising:
storing function information of a plurality of printer models, supported by a common
firmware, of the printer in the printer,
designating a model from among the plurality of models at a time of manufacture, and
controlling the printer according to the function information corresponding to the printer,
and

wherein the common firmware is a multi-model firmware that can be used in the plurality
of printer models.

19-21. (Cancelled)